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31 May 1958

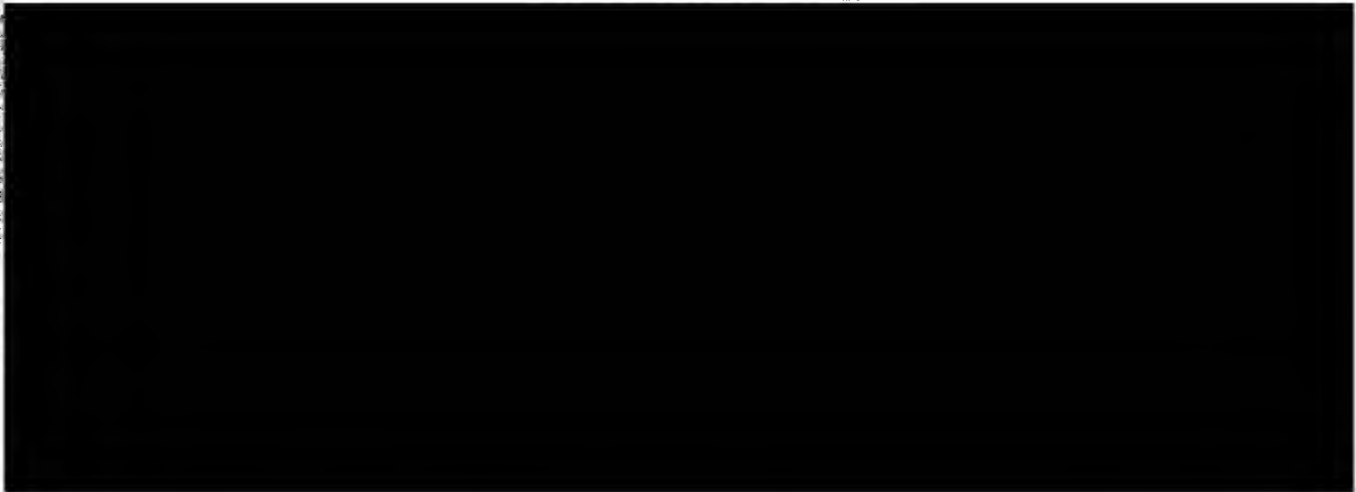
DAILY BRIEF

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC



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II. ASIA-AFRICA



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no Watch Committee conclusion -- Middle East: A deliberate initiation of hostilities in the Middle East is considered unlikely in the near future. However, serious incidents are likely to recur. In Lebanon the continuing crisis represents a grave threat to the nation as presently constituted. There

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is evidence of increasing intervention by UAR irregulars and of the infiltration of considerable quantities of UAR arms. There is, however, no evidence of UAR intention to interfere with regular military forces, a step which may not be required for UAR purposes. Lebanese armed forces have not been employed to the extent of their capabilities. Available evidence does not indicate an intention by the Soviet bloc or by Israel to become militarily involved. (TOP SECRET) [REDACTED]

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No Watch Committee conclusion -- Indonesia: Significant numbers of Soviet bloc arms and technicians are continuing to arrive in Indonesia. There are no developments indicating a Sino-Soviet bloc intention to become directly involved in military operations in Indonesia. The situation continues to favor local Communist and Sino-Soviet bloc exploitation. (TOP SECRET) [REDACTED]

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no * Tunisia: The Tunisian UN delegation, which has demanded an urgent Security Council hearing of Tunisia's complaint against France, concedes that council action could have only limited effectiveness but states that its government had no other recourse. Tunisian officials claim that French units from Algeria entered Tunisia on 27 May, and that French naval units are standing off Tunisia's eastern coast. The Tunisian order that all French civilian residents turn in their arms--including some 3,000 covered by permit--is likely to create new incidents. (SECRET NOFORN) (Page 7)

no Watch Committee conclusion --North Africa: The Tunisian situation remains explosive. A serious incident could lead to the internationalization of the crisis. No evidence is available of Soviet bloc efforts to exploit the current crisis in North Africa, except in propaganda. (TOP SECRET) [REDACTED]

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III. THE WEST

no * France: General De Gaulle's parliamentary investiture still awaits a caucus of Socialist deputies as well as the general's own formation of a cabinet. He is apparently trying to include both party leaders and technical experts in his cabinet. The Communists are not expected to protest his investiture by violent means. (SECRET NOFORN) (Page 8)

IV. SIGNIFICANT INTELLIGENCE REPORTS AND ESTIMATES

(Available during the preceding week)

no Special National Intelligence Estimate No. 66-58. The Outlook for the Philippine Republic. 27 May 1958. (SECRET)

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DAILY BRIEF

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The Tunisian Situation

The Tunisian delegation at the United Nations insists that its government had no other recourse but an appeal to the UN following the second French attack in a week on the remote outpost of Remada in southern Tunisia. Tunisian officials claim French ground units from Algeria entered Tunisia on 27 May, and that French naval vessels are standing off the eastern coast. France has replied to the Tunisian action at the UN by asking that its complaint of 14 February against Tunisia be revived, stating that Tunis has disrupted the modus vivendi established at that time.

President Bourguiba is reported embittered because the French air force bombardment of Remada on 25 May has not aroused editorial and official commentary in the United States similar to the French attack on Sakiet Sidi Youssef on 8 February, and because there has been no official American declaration firmly supporting the Tunisian Government in this crisis. Tunisian officials displayed fragments of bombs to the American ambassador which they claim were from Remada and were of American manufacture.

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Except for a report that a French civilian was roughed up during a demonstration on 28 May, there apparently have been no attacks on French residents. However the Tunisian order that all French residents turn in their arms--including about 3,000 which are authorized by permits--is likely to create new incidents. (SECRET NOFORN)

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III. THE WEST

The French Crisis (Information as of 0100)

The time for General De Gaulle's investiture vote has not yet been set, pending the outcome of Socialist party deliberations and the completion of his cabinet list. Socialist leader Mollet's efforts on behalf of the general apparently encountered heavier opposition than anticipated in the intermittent meetings of the Socialist deputies on 30 May.

The new cabinet, according to one press report, will consist of 14 political leaders and ten technical experts drawn from industry and labor. De Gaulle apparently hopes to achieve a semblance of "national unity" by including as "political counselors" the leaders of the three largest non-Communist parties. His ability to win the support of the labor leaders remains in some doubt; they have been even more critical of him than left-of-center political leaders.

25X1 [REDACTED] De Gaulle has agreed to a six-month tenure of office, a term which may be renewed on its expiration. During this period, he is expected to send parliament on vacation while a new constitution is prepared. There is speculation that he may make a personal visit to Algeria immediately after his investiture.

Earlier fears that De Gaulle's investiture would lead to Communist-inspired violence have largely disappeared. The Communist-dominated General Labor Confederation on 29 May issued a communiqué which reasserts the organization's opposition to De Gaulle, but stops short of a call to action. (SECRET NOFORN)

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